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ren sehr schwierig, aber sie wäre unendlich lohnend. Noch immer berücksichtigen unsere Lesebücher die Gegenwart nicht genügend.

Als Anhang hat der erfahrene Schulmann die schwierigen Ausdrücke durch andere deutsche oder auch durch englische erklärt. Das Büchlein sei allen bestens empfohlen. **J. E.**

Storm's Immensee. Edited by *Professor C. M. Purin*, University of Wisconsin.—New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. XI, 150, $0.50.

It might not be far amiss to say that Storm's *Immensee* is one of the two or three texts which are represented in almost all the Modern Language Series published in this country. It also can safely be stated that the number of high schools with at least a two years' course in German in which *Immensee* is not read, is very limited indeed—if such high schools can be found at all. Thus, *Immensee* seems to be by far the most popular prose-text, and quite rightly so, for it is the only text which never fails, even in a comparatively poor edition, to stimulate and maintain the interest of the pupils. And this is indeed of preeminent importance in the selection of suitable text books, especially with regard to foreign languages.

Not enough emphasis can be laid upon the fact that above all, no matter what other considerations might be justified, the text *must* be interesting and *must* appeal to the taste of the pupils. In my opinion, this consideration is far more important than all others put together.

If, then, *Immensee* is such a text that compels interest and attention infallibly, even if poorly edited, how inspiring and stimulating for both, teacher and pupils, must be an excellent and truly up to date edition.

And it is such an edition that we have before us in Dr. Purin's able treatment of this text. It is an edition "par excellence"; an edition which is the high water mark in the presentation of modern language texts.

Every teacher who examines this edition, will be impressed at once, and very forcefully, with the fact that the editor thoroly understands the needs of the students; not, as in most cases, only the needs of the teacher, tho the latter are by no means neglected.

The whole treatment shows the editor's intimate acquaintance with every phase of the language work; his thoro and keen appreciation of every detail and of every difficulty is clearly visible and permeates every exercise in the book.

The edition is in strict accordance with the Direct or Reform Method. The apparatus shows a distinct departure from the traditional, both in form and spirit. The text is divided, not in the usual ten chapters, but in twenty-nine reading sections with questions, word explanations in German, grammatical and exceptionally practical and stimulating exercises which particularly reveal the new spirit. Perhaps for the first time in the history of school editions, we find here exercises that are a real help and encouragement to the students, exercises that will undoubtedly contribute to a clear and sympathetic understanding of the text, promote a friendly attitude toward grammar and even a certain eagerness with regard to it; in short, exercises that will interest the pupils as much as the text itself.

There is also a vocabulary which is, however, rather superfluous, particularly so, because the word explanations in German at the end of each reading section, are very clear and definite. Thus, to give the word meaning again in English, is practically to undo what has been done before, at least from the point of view of the Direct Method. Yet, it must be admitted that the great majority of teachers is still unwilling to accept a text without a vocabulary, and it is probably this consideration that promoted the editor to append it. A special feature, however, which is also a wise departure from the tradition, al, is the clever and advantageous arrangement of the vocabulary which not only gives the meaning of the words in English, but also their equivalents in German following the latter, thus always making the German predominant.

Grover Cleveland High School, St. Louis, Mo. **A. Kenngott.**

Arnold Zehme, Germanische Götter- und Heldensage. Mit Anknüpfung an die Lektüre für höhere Lehranstalten, namentlich für den deutschen Unterricht, sowie zur Selbstbelehrung nach den Quellen dargestellt. Zweite, vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Leipzig, G. Freytag, 1913. 228 Seiten. Olbd. 2 Mark.

Von den mir bekannten kürzeren Darstellungen des Gegenstandes ist die vorliegende die beste. Sie vereinigt gewissenhafte Durcharbeitung der Quel-